GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5968
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
IMPORT OF INDIAN SUGAR BY PAKISTAN
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has decided to import 50,000 tonnes of sugar from India;

(b) if so, the rates offered and whether it is based on consideration of most favoured nation under WTO treaty; and

(c) the impact of export of this quantity on the domestic requirement in view of ensuing festival season?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a)&(b): Pakistan has not accorded MFN Statusto India. It prescribes a list of items which can be imported from India. The list presently contains 600 items. The list does not include sugar.

Government of Pakistan (GoP) had allowed in Financial Year 2000-2001 import of sugar from India. It decided on 7th March, 2001 to ban import of sugar from India. It, however, allowed import of sugar against Letters of Credit (LCs) opened till 7.3.2001. Since the LCs for import of 50,000 tons of sugar are still valid, GoP, in line with its earlier decision to allow import of sugar against LCs opened before 7th March, 2001, has allowed import of 50,000 tons of sugar against these valid LCs.There has not been, however, any change in the policy of GoP regarding banning import of sugar from India and import of sugar from India continues to remain banned.

The export of sugar from India to different countries including Pakistan is on commercial basis.As such, it is not possible to indicate the rates offered by importing parties of foreign countries.

(c): The country is having large stocks of sugar. The sugar season 2000-2001 is likely to close with closing stocks of about 1 million tones. Hence, export of 50,000 tonnes of sugar to Pakistan would have no impact on the availability and prices of sugar in the country.